

JAMES E. "JIM" KING, JR.
President

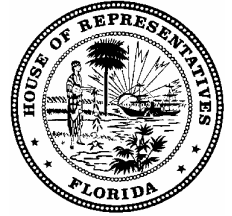


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**Public Counsel Harold McLean Joins Attorney General's Motion for Summary Final
Order in PSC Telephone Cases**

TALLAHASSEE— Public Counsel Harold McLean announced today that he has joined the Attorney General's Motion for Summary Final Order against BellSouth, Verizon, and Sprint in the pending telephone cases at the Florida Public Service Commission. "I believe the Attorney General's motion is well founded," said McLean. "The companies have not shown that their proposed local rate increases will be offset by corresponding long distance rate reductions benefiting residential customers."

McLean said that although he expects the Florida Public Service Commission to grant the motion, he has retained two expert witnesses to testify against the companies' petitions if the Commission decides to proceed with the hearings. Dr. David J. Gabel, a professor of economics at Queens College in New York and a visiting scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Internet and Telecommunications Consortium, filed testimony urging the Florida Public Service Commission to deny the petitions. He is joined by Mr. Bion C. Ostrander, a telecommunications consultant.